

## **Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program (TRT)**

### **Position Description**

The purpose of this position is two-fold. First it will supplement the permanent park ranger and education workforce by performing duties related to resource education and conservation, visitor services, visitor safety, and other related park duties. Second, it will allow the teacher to more fully explore the national parks to enrich their classrooms with a clearer understanding and appreciation of park resources.

The Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) will have the opportunity to work on various projects and activities including but not limited to conducting Junior Ranger and interpretive programs, field experiences with park biologists, writing and/or reviewing curriculum-based school activities, participating in outreach efforts, and staffing the information desk at the Visitor Center.

The TRT will:

- 1) Facilitate visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources. Park visitors include all audiences, whether visiting physically or intellectually via the web, publications, school programs, and other outreach programs to the community.
- 2) Encourage citizens, especially students, to develop a sense of stewardship for park resources.
- 3) Facilitate and encourage visitor behavior consistent with resource protection by gaining friendly compliance with the laws and rules for safe use of the park and positive exposure to national park values.

Major Duties while at the National Park:

- Prepares and presents, with other staff, our summer Junior Ranger Camps. May also assist with the presentation of formal and informal programs and hikes, general interpretive programs, educational programs for children and adults, and roving interpretation. Programs are based on the established park interpretive themes and current management issues, and conform to the standards for NPS interpretation.
- Participates in the research, design and development of curriculum-based materials for specific grade levels and assists with the evaluation of all curriculum-based materials for appropriateness, effectiveness, and alignment with state curriculum standards. Materials include on-site activities and pre- and post-visit activities to be conducted in the school classroom.
- Conducts independent research on varied topics for the purpose of providing resource education programs. Learns about park resources by attending in-park

training, reading park research materials and maps, and by interviewing other park rangers or staff, researchers, and other professionals.

- May assist with staffing the visitor center informing visitors about park facilities and resources.
- Operates a variety of audiovisual and other equipment used in connection with interpretive programs, including slide or power point projector, VCR, audio cassette player, video cassette and/or DVD players, GIS equipment, digital cameras, etc.

Duties when back in the classroom:

- Incorporates activities related to the National Park Service into their classroom curriculum during the school year.
- Wears the Park Service uniform during National Park Week, or another time as agreed to with the park representative and the school district, and conducts activities related to the National Park Service and gives several presentations to their class, a school assembly and to one other school within the district.
- Presents an interpretive program to a community or school audience on Saguaro National Park.
- Coordinates with park staff a community field trip from the teacher's school to Saguaro National Park for a half-day weekend field trip.

## **Park Responsibilities**

Parks will:

- Supply a park ranger uniform and name tag.
- Provide park specific and ranger training at the park. After this training, teachers will be able to provide some interpretive services, but can also support park operations in other ways.
- Provide payment to teachers for the eight week program.
- Make available a digital camera and equipment to produce media products.

## **Teacher Responsibilities**

To qualify for the program, teachers must:

- Complete the application.
- Obtain approval from their school principal, endorsing them.
- Commit to work eight weeks at Saguaro National Park during the summer with possible days during the school year for park special events. This will be negotiated between the teacher and the park supervisor.
- Agree to wear a park ranger uniform according to NPS uniform standards.
- Adhere to all National Park Service policies and guidelines.
- Develop a series of student activities related to Saguaro National Park and the National Park Service to use in their classroom.

- Wear their Park Service uniform during National Park Week, or another time as agreed to with the park representatives and the school district. Teachers will also present programs on the National Park Service to the following: their individual class, other classes within their school, a school assembly and to at least one other school within their district.
- Present a program for peers through the district's professional development program that will present background information about Saguaro National Park and outline curriculum based programs offered by the park.
- Possibly write at least one newspaper article for their local paper or a general press release for the park to distribute to media contacts.
- Document their experience with at least 20 photos, some in uniform (both in the park and the classroom), and some in civilian clothes in the classroom.

## Training for Teachers

The park staff will provide basic training in interpretation/education skills for working with the general public and foundational knowledge about the National Park Service. The training will also cover supervisory expectations.

Teachers will be hired as a contract employee through the Friends of Saguaro National Park and must be under a current contract in a school district and returning to a district under contract as a teacher the following school year. The compensation and benefit requirement of the district contracts remain in force during the term of their assignments to the National Park Service at Saguaro National Park.

I agree to the terms and conditions above:

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Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_

Date